

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 1408
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2015; March 18, 2015, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, and
 1-4 Rural Affairs; May 7, 2015, reported favorably by the following
 1-5 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 7, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9			X	
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the establishment of a matching grant program for
 1-18 community development in certain municipalities and counties.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Title 2, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding
 1-21 Chapter 23 to read as follows:

1-22 CHAPTER 23. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR RURAL
 1-23 AND SMALL COMMUNITIES

1-24 Sec. 23.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "program" means
 1-25 the community development matching grant program established under
 1-26 this chapter.

1-27 Sec. 23.002. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM.

1-28 (a) Subject to the availability of federal and state funds, the
 1-29 department shall create a community development matching grant
 1-30 program to foster community and economic development in certain
 1-31 municipalities and counties.

1-32 (b) The department shall award matching grants under the
 1-33 program to assist in the financing of:

1-34 (1) trade-related initiatives and programs, as
 1-35 determined by the commissioner, that will assist farmers, ranchers,
 1-36 and the equine industry in eligible municipalities or counties to
 1-37 develop and export their produce, products, and services to
 1-38 international markets;

1-39 (2) community development projects, including basic
 1-40 infrastructure projects such as water or wastewater facilities and
 1-41 planning, street improvements, and drainage;

1-42 (3) capacity-building projects relating to local
 1-43 public facility and housing planning activities;

1-44 (4) renewable energy projects to help participating
 1-45 rural communities reduce energy costs for water and wastewater
 1-46 treatment facilities;

1-47 (5) restoration projects for water or wastewater
 1-48 infrastructure based on urgent need, if the infrastructure poses an
 1-49 imminent threat to life or health;

1-50 (6) economic development projects to create or retain
 1-51 permanent employment opportunities;

1-52 (7) economic development projects to support economic
 1-53 and management development activities at the county level;

1-54 (8) environmental projects that provide assistance to
 1-55 small communities for solving water or wastewater problems using
 1-56 self-help methods; and

1-57 (9) other community development projects as
 1-58 determined by the department with the assistance of the Texas Rural
 1-59 Health and Economic Development Advisory Council.

1-60 Sec. 23.003. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES. A municipality or county
 1-61 is eligible for a matching grant under this chapter if the

2-1 municipality or county is:
2-2 (1) a nonentitlement area, as defined by 42 U.S.C.
2-3 Section 5302(a)(7), under the federal community development block
2-4 grant nonentitlement program; and

2-5 (2) in good standing with the department and with the
2-6 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

2-7 Sec. 23.004. APPLICATIONS. Eligible municipalities or
2-8 counties may submit a single-jurisdiction application or a
2-9 multi-jurisdiction application for a matching grant under the
2-10 program for a community development project. An application must
2-11 include a description of the project proposal.

2-12 Sec. 23.005. PREFERENCE FOR MULTI-JURISDICTION
2-13 APPLICATIONS. (a) In awarding a matching grant under the program,
2-14 the department shall give preference to an application submitted
2-15 under the program by two or more eligible municipalities or
2-16 counties if the application shows that the proposed community
2-17 development project will mutually benefit the residents of the
2-18 communities applying for the funds.

2-19 (b) A multi-jurisdiction application solely for
2-20 administrative convenience may not be accepted by the department.

2-21 (c) A municipality or county that has submitted a
2-22 multi-jurisdiction application may not submit a
2-23 single-jurisdiction application for a matching grant for the same
2-24 project for which the multi-jurisdiction application was
2-25 submitted.

2-26 (d) If a matching grant is awarded under this program, one
2-27 of the municipalities or counties participating under a
2-28 multi-jurisdiction application shall be primarily accountable to
2-29 the department for financial compliance and performance
2-30 requirements under the program. All municipalities and counties
2-31 applying under a multi-jurisdiction application must meet
2-32 application threshold requirements.

2-33 Sec. 23.006. RULES. (a) The department by rule shall set
2-34 criteria for matching grant requirements and participation under
2-35 the program.

2-36 (b) The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement
2-37 this chapter.

2-38 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-39 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-40 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-41 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-42 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

2-43 * * * * *